

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for billing for web services comprising the steps of:

- creating a descriptor file designating ~~at least one~~ a pre-defined element;
- configuring a handler to monitor a web service network communication, between a service requestor and a service provider, for said predefined ~~element(s)~~ element in said descriptor file;
- configuring said handler to send said pre-defined ~~element(s)~~ element to a set of programmed instructions to create an event record;
- electronically transmitting said event record to a billing system for further processing;

wherein the handler configured to monitor for said predefined element in said descriptor file is located at an entity taken from the list of entities consisting of:

- a) the service requestor; and
- b) the service provider.

2. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said programmed instructions are configured to determine whether an event corresponding to said event record requires authorization.

3. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said programmed instructions are configured to determine whether an event corresponding to said event record requires rating.
4. (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of transforming said pre-defined element(s) element according to a set of instructions in said descriptor file before transmitting said event record to the billing system.
5. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said web service network communication comprises a request for a web service and a response to said request wherein said request comprises a start time and said response comprises an end time and further comprising the steps of:
 - creating a first event record comprising said start time;
 - sending said first event record to said billing system;
 - queuing said first event record in said billing system;
 - creating a second event record comprising said end time;
 - sending said second event record to said billing system;
 - matching said first event record with said second event record;
 - calculating a charge for said web service based on said start time and said end time;
 - returning said charge to said service provider.

6. (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said billing system comprises programmed billing instructions coded to determine whether a web service transaction may be performed.
7. (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to determine if said service requestor is permitted to access said web service transaction.
8. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said billing system returns a response to said web service provider indicating whether said web service transaction should proceed.
9. (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 7 6 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to determine whether said service requestor is solvent enough to purchase said web service transaction.
10. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to return a response to a set of application code associated with said web service provider indicating whether said web service transaction should proceed.
11. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to return a response to said web service provider indicating a quantity for said web service transaction to proceed.
12. (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said web service network communication comprises a SOAP message stream; wherein the service requestor accesses the service provider on a direct peer-to-peer basis; and wherein the handler is located at the service provider.

13. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said SOAP message stream comprises a set of data including quality of service information, authorization key fields, version numbers, encrypted account information, and start/stop time.
14. (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said billing system uses said ~~at least one~~ pre-defined element in said SOAP message stream to support at least one pre-defined billing plan.
15. (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 14 wherein said pre-defined billing plans is chosen from a list consisting of subscriptions, bundled plans, time-based usage plans, re-occurring charges, one-time charges, discount plans based on usage, discount plans based on time-of-day, discount plans based on customer loyalty, discount plans based on family/organization relationships, ~~tired~~ tiered plans, location dependent pricing, and combinations thereof.
16. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method comprising
 - receiving a descriptor file designating at least one pre-defined element;
 - utilizing said descriptor file to monitor a web service network communication for said pre-defined element(s);
 - copying said-predefined element(s) from said network communication into a record;
 - electronically sending said record to a billing system for further processing.
17. (Previously Presented) A system for billing for web services comprising:

- a descriptor file;
- a handler;
- a record; and
- a billing system

wherein

- said descriptor file designates at least one pre-defined elements;
- said handler is configured to monitor a web service network communication, between a service requestor and a service provider, and to intercept said communication if said communication corresponds to said at least one pre-defined element in said descriptor file;
- said handler is further configured to copy said pre-defined elements from said network communication into a record;
- said handler is further configured to electronically transmit said record to a billing system for further processing.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said billing system is embedded within a web service server; wherein said further processing comprises determining whether said service requestor is solvent enough to purchase a web service corresponding to said web service network communication; and wherein said web service network communication comprises a SOAP message stream; wherein said handler is located at the service provider; and wherein the service requestor accesses the service provider on a direct peer-to-peer basis.

19. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the monitored web service network communication is between a service requestor and a service provider, and wherein the computer readable medium is located at the service provider.
20. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the web service network communication comprises a communication where the service requestor accesses the service provider on a direct peer-to-peer basis.